

# FACT SHEET



## Riverfront Site New Haven, Missouri

December 2000

The EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) are investigating the Riverfront site in New Haven, Missouri. We're trying to find out where the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination are coming from. The contamination may be the result of past industries using solvents on the site.

Our on going ground water investigation shows that the city's drinking water wells, three and four, are not contaminated.

### What's Happened So Far?

- We added the site to the National Priorities List.
- We completed a cleanup action.
- We completed the first phase of the investigation and the second phase is underway.

### What's Next?

- We'll continue the investigation.
- We'll develop a detailed study of the site. In the study, we'll tell the cause of the contamination, how far it goes, the possible threats to the community and the environment, and ways for cleaning up the site.

### What's the National Priorities List?

This month EPA added the site to the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites in the country. EPA uses a scoring system to decide if the site is dangerous to people, the air, surface or ground water. The site scored high enough to be listed.

The listing means that the site qualifies for a broad, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Those sites listed on the NPL are eligible for cleanup money from the Superfund program. The Superfund program was established by Congress to clean up hazardous waste sites.

### What Was the Cleanup Action?

The U.S. Geological Survey is EPA's contractor for the ground water investigation. As part of the investigation they found high levels of PCE in a water line on city property. The water line is immediately south of the site. The PCE levels were over what EPA considers safe for drinking water. It appears that PCE got into the line, contaminating the water.

Due to the high levels, EPA started a cleanup in June 2000 and completed it in August 2000. The cleanup was done to take away any immediate risks to the community.

We dug up the contaminated dirt around the line and took it away. We replaced the

contaminated line with more durable pipes. We then re-sampled the line and results showed it had no contamination. EPA then covered the line with clean dirt.

### **What About the Investigation?**

The first phase of the investigation is complete. We did a domestic well survey to help us understand the ground water flow. We installed four monitoring wells between city well number two and the Missouri River. We found PCE contamination in the ground water near well number two.

The second phase of the investigation is underway. We've installed monitoring wells near the city water department, on Orchard Street, and near the old city dump site. We're still taking samples from these wells and found PCE contamination in the ground water south of well number two.

We've also sampled city wells number three and four. We have not found any contamination in those wells.

### **How Can I Get Involved?**

EPA and MDNR believe in early, direct, and meaningful community involvement. We value your input. We want you to help us understand what's going on in your community. We also want to help you understand what's going on at the site.

The Technical Assistance Grant and the Community Advisory Group are ways that we can interact.

The **Technical Assistance Grant or TAG** is a Superfund-sponsored grant of up to \$50,000. A community group can use the grant to hire an independent expert to help them understand technical data, and site hazards, and become more knowledgeable

about the different technologies that may be used to clean up the Riverfront site. We can only award one TAG at an NPL site.

The **Community Advisory Group or CAG**, is made up of community members like you. The CAG membership is voluntary. They will meet regularly and review and comment on technical documents and plans related to the Riverfront site. The CAG will help us, and your community, exchange site activity information and community concerns.

CAGs also meet with individuals and community groups to get their views and hear their concerns. The CAG is a good way for us to exchange information.

### **Do You Want More Information?**

You can find more detailed information about the Riverfront site at the:

New Haven Scenic Regional Library  
109 Maupin  
New Haven, Missouri

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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